

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2,3,4,9,10,11 and 12 without prejudice.

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An inlet valve apparatus for use with a snorkel, said inlet valve apparatus comprising:

a snorkel cap having an air inlet and an air outlet;

5 an air passageway connecting said air inlet and said air outlet in fluid communication one with another; and,

a float valve movable between an open position whereat air can pass from said air inlet to said air outlet and a closed position whereat air and water are precluded from passing from said air inlet to said air outlet;

10 wherein said float valve is buoyant in water;

means for mounting said inlet valve apparatus onto the top end of a snorkel such that said air outlet is in fluid communication with said snorkel;

wherein said snorkel cap comprises a substantially vertically disposed hollow stem having a top end and a bottom end, and an outer cap portion having a roof portion and a sidewall portion and being secured to said hollow stem in surrounding relation over the top end thereof;

wherein said air passageway connecting said air inlet and said air outlet in fluid communication one with the other is disposed in said hollow stem;

wherein said air outlet of said snorkel cap is disposed at the bottom end of said hollow stem; and,

wherein said air inlet of said snorkel cap is disposed in said sidewall portion of said outer cap portion.

Claim 2. (Cancelled)

Claim 3. (Cancelled)

Claim 4. (Cancelled)

Claim 5. (Cancelled)

Claim 6.(Currently Amended) The inlet valve apparatus of claim 51, wherein said outer cap portion is secured to said hollow stem by means of an annular ring having at least one air passage aperture therein.

Claim 7.(Original) The inlet valve apparatus of claim 6, wherein said vertically disposed hollow stem and said outer cap portion are substantially cylindrical.

Claim 8.(Original) The inlet valve apparatus of claim 1, wherein said float valve is mounted in sliding relation on said hollow stem.

Claim 9.(Original) The inlet valve apparatus of claim 1, wherein said float valve substantially surrounds said hollow stem.

Claim 10.(Original) The inlet valve apparatus of claim 9, wherein said float valve is substantially cylindrical in shape.

Claim 11.(Original) The inlet valve apparatus of claim 1, wherein said float valve is shaped and dimensioned to fit in close fitting relation within said outer cap portion, to thereby cover said air inlet disposed in said sidewall portion of said outer cap portion.

Claim 12.(Original) The inlet valve apparatus of claim 11, wherein said float valve includes a tray portion for receiving water therein.

Claim 13.(Original) The inlet valve apparatus of claim 12, wherein said tray portion is disposed at the bottom end of said float valve.

Claim 14. (Original) The inlet valve apparatus of claim 13, wherein said tray portion is annularly disposed around said hollow stem.

Claim 15. (Cancelled)